DUXBURY SAFE HAVEN

Campo

Camp Chappa Challa, located on the ocean off Powder Point Ave., is an effort of the Duxbury community to meet the needs of youth for the summer, a time of year when the percentages of runaways is at its peak.

It is a time of great confusion for those caught in between childhood and adulthood. It is the aim of Chappa Challa to reach out to those youth who are looking for guidance. Chappa Challa hopes to provide a "safe" place for youth to live, away from the "street culture," and all the perils that it holds.

Chappa Challa is a temporary shelter service for youth 18 years old and under, for a period of three weeks. The camp is not providing a summer vacation, but rather a place where boys and girls may stay, only with parental permission. Here they and the staff will work together in striving to attain a solution to problems of youth which are acceptable to them, their parents, and others.

Chappa Challa is NOT a treatment center, but rather hopes to serve as a connecting link with the runaway, his parents and existing institutions. Chappa Challa will depend on existing mental health services for help not available at the camp.

While the youth is at Chappa Challa, he will be expected to share in the work which is necessary to maintain the camp. Each will have daily chores to perform as his contribution for his housing. The chores will include painting, gardening, washing dishes, housecleaning or repairing the physical plant.

Since Chappa Challa is on the ocean, it will afford recreational activities, thus eliminating boredom, which drives many youth onto the road to adventure and experimentation.

THE RULES

Residents at Camp Chappa Challa may have two visitors at a time between 1:30 p.m. and 10 p.m. Because of the unusual circumstances of the camp, it will be required that EVERY visitor check in and obtain a pass from a staff member. A resident leaving the camp must also check out with a staff member.

Procedure for intake at Chappa Challa will be the following:

The youth will be interviewed by a director and a counselor to determine why he came to the camp, what his expectations are, and whether his goals can be reached at the camp. The youth's parents will be notified and parental permission will be sought. If the parents live within a reasonable distance to the camp, parental permission must be obtained in a written consent form.

If the parents are not within a reasonable distance, permission must be obtained verbally, witnessed by three staff members. The youth must also sign a form which is an agreement between himself and the camp that he will abide by established rules.

During the initial interview, the youth will be given an appointment for the following day, during which he will meet with a counselor and also receive his daily chore schedule.

A volunteer will also be assigned to a youth for a certain time, to the youth so he can better adjust to the camp and its residents.

Recreation will include swimming on the camp's private beach, baseball, volley ball, gardening, and arts and crafts.

Each of ten resident cabins is staffed by a resident member of the staff. Shelter will be available for at least 15 youths.

There is a recreational hall, a mess hall, and an arts and crafts building.

There is no fee for residence.

Chappa Challa hopes to serve runaways, alienated youth, those seeking drug-rehabilitation, as well as anyone who is looking for something to live by.

Father Kenneth Reed, SBD, is the director, assisted by Arlene Arruda, a social worker and a director of Project Lighthouse; Morrison Bump, a senior at Yale, and Lynn Doran, a junior at Mt. Holyoke College who is majoring in psychology.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Community contributions to the project will be greatly appreciated in lieu of state funding, which is hoped for. Containers will be available at all churches in Duxbury for contributions of such items as aspirin, toothpaste, toothbrushes, paper towels or other towels, canned food, fresh vegetables, cookies, cake, jellies, pots and pans, sheets, blankets, soap or any other articles needed in a home.

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